

tion, and that several other county societies are either in process of forming or are in the preparatory stage. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the membership of the Society has trebled. These things are merely referred to in a casual way and there is no intention of continuing the argument with a stick of dynamite. The members of the State Society should certainly take much credit to themselves for their action in recommending that the annual volume of Transactions be abolished and that a journal be substituted. Certainly very few people ever look into an annual volume of transactions, and while some may not study the pages of a journal, or look at it after its volumes are completed, their attention is called to its existence and to the vitality of the Society publishing it, at least twelve times each year.

At the present time, pretty much every manufacturer of pharmaceuticals in the country is turning out products to suit himself—and his assortment of customers. Several of the largest houses have at least three grades of "U. S. P." products, due to the fact, as alleged by one of them, that they have to make their goods to suit the price demanded by the purchaser, and not, as is the popularly believed fairy story, according to the requirements of that wonderful work on folk lore, the United States Pharmacopeia! A gentleman connected with one of the largest manufacturing houses in the country says: "We receive an order like this: 'If you can furnish the goods ordered at the prices named, please do so, etc.' Now what are we to do? It is impossible to make U. S. P. standard goods at the figure named, yet if we refuse the order some other house will fill it; and we are in business for profit." So the wholesaler gets the third-grade goods, and the pharmacist, taught thrift by the manufacturer's example, buys them, and the physician's prescription is filled with them, and somehow the "personal idiosyncrasy of the patient" is such that no result follows their administration. Perhaps the patient dies. We have laws, but who is to enforce them? We have a Pharmacopeia, but—perhaps the less said the better. There are certainly enough decent, self-respecting physicians and pharmacists in the country to see that this thing is changed, if they will, and the way to do it is to get together and demand that a standard be set and then lived up to; that the certificate of the National Bureau be placed upon honest products so that all men may know them and know that they are honest. It can be done, and there are enough reputable concerns ready to support the movement to assure its success.

After the beautiful and forceful illustrative examples furnished gratis (?) by Messrs. Carnegie,

STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION.

Morgan, Rockefeller, et al., he must indeed be a very blind man who cannot perceive the advantages directly accruing from perfected organization. The power of unanimity is practically incalculable. It is just this unanimity of action for which the State Society is pleading and, with the American Medical Association, is striving to attain. Granted an organization of a great majority of the physicians of the whole country, or any given section of it, and immediate results will appear. If, say, seventy-five or eighty per cent of the physicians of California were united in one society, what legislation could be passed in opposition to its dictum? With such an organization, acclaiming, as one of its first duties and privileges, the protection of its members against, for instance, attempted blackmail in the guise of "malpractice" suits, how many suits would be filed in a decade? The opinion is ventured that there would be fewer such attempts in a decade than there are now in a twelve-month. And the cost? The opinion is also ventured that the cost would be less than the total amount now paid by various members of the State Society for insurance policies covering malpractice suits; yes, a good deal less. True life is to do something worth the doing; health is given in order to do it; happiness comes from doing or helping in the doing. To plod along, not seeing, not advancing, not caring to know what others are about nor how the world is going ahead and in what lines; that is what some people seem to call "living." Why, the littlest tree toad in the land does more than that, for he makes as much noise in the world as he can. Some physicians ask themselves, or any one else they can manage to bore, "What use would it be to join a medical society?" If they would transpose these words and say, "What use would it be to the medical society for me to join it; how could I help?" they would indicate a more hopeful possibility of enlightenment. And they would help in just this way: They would each one add his decimal toward forming the unit. In decimals there is much weakness, but in the unit there is unlimited strength. Therefore, every physician in the State is urged to join his county society at once. If you have no county society, it is as much your fault as any one's, and the sooner you get busy and start a county society the sooner you will know you are alive. The State Society has trebled its membership since last November; we want to at least double the present membership before next November, and it can be done if the sleepers will but wake up.